

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8987
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7496

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, NI, CD
SUBJECT: MALLOUM VISITS LAGOS

REF: NDJAMENA 2287

1. CHAD HEAD OF STATE LT. GEN. MALLOUM LEFT LAGOS ON JUNE 14 AT THE END OF WHAT WAS DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS A ONE DAY "WORKING" VISIT TO NIGERIA. MALLOUM MET WITH FMG HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO, INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE M.D. YUSUF, AND MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA.

2. IN AN AIRPORT DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE, MALLOUM SAID THAT BILATERAL COOPERATION WAS EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED AS WELL AS "OTHER MATTERS OF AFRICAN INTEREST." REPLYING TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION ON THE BREAKDOWN OF THE RECENT PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHAD AND ITS REBELS, MALLOUM EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRONLINAT REBELS WERE THE AGGRESSORS, AND THAT THEY HAD VIOLATED THE TRUCE. "EVEN COLONEL MAUMMAR GADDAFI OF LIBYA WHO HAD BEEN HELPING TO MEDIATE HAD CONDEMNED THE REBELS FOR THAT."
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MALLOUM SAID THAT SUDANESE VICE-PRESIDENT ABOUL GASSIM IBRAHIM HAD PROMISED TO MEDIATE AND THE MATTER "MIGHT BE REPORTED TO OAU IF MEDIATION FAILED."

3. COMMISSIONER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, ANNOUNCED THAT THE NIGERIANS WERE READY TO HELP TO EFFECT RECONCILIATION

BETWEEN THE CHAD GOVERNMENT AND FROLINAT. "WE WILL NOT
CONDONE A SITUATION IN WHICH A COUNTRY IS BEING DESTABILISED
EITHER BY INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL FORCES."

4. ONE OF THE BILATERAL AGENDA ITEMS DURING THE VISIT
WAS THE SIGNING OF AN AIR AGREEMENT WHICH ESTABLISHES
TWICE WEEKLY LAGOS-NDJAMENA SERVICE.

5. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO FRENCH CHARGE ROBIN, MALLOUM
WAS INVITED BY OBASANJO TO COME TO LAGOS FOR THE PRIMARY
PURPOSE OF OFFERING NIGERIA'S SERVICES AS MEDIATORS
AGAIN. ROBIN SPECULATED THAT A MEDIATION TEAM OF THE
SUDANESE, NIGERIANS AND PERHAPS ONE OR TWO OTHER COUNTRIES
WAS BEING FORMED.

6. ROBIN TOLD POLCOUNS THAT THE SUBJECT OF CLAN-
DESTINE FROLINAT OPERATIONS IN NIGERIA ALSO CAME UP. HE
SAID THE CHADIAN AMBASSADOR HAS MADE SEVERAL
REPRESENTATIONS TO THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT FROLINAT
RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES IN LAGOS. ACCORDING TO ROBIN,
CHADIANS IN NIGERIA ARE RECRUITED IN CENTERS LOCATED
IN YABA, KIRIKIRI AND APAPA. THEIR HEADS ARE SHAVED,
THEY ARE SWORN INTO THE ORGANIZATION ON THE KORAN, AND THEN
SENT TO TRIPOLI WHERE THEY ARE TRAINED FOR 45 DAYS,
ISSUED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND SENT TO THE FRONT.
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